

JACOB WETZEL.

MARCH 7, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ALGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 12036.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12036) granting an increase of pension to Jacob Wetzel, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows.

Jacob Wetzel, now 61 years of age, served as a private in Company D, Fourth Ohio Infantry, from October 12, 1861, to October 20, 1864, when honorably discharged as of Company D, Fourth Battalion, Ohio Volunteers.

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, the result of disease of chest and lumbago.

He was formerly pensioned under the general law at \$2 per month from December 8, 1885, on account of disease of lungs, the result of measles.

It was also admitted that he received a shell wound of the left foot at Chancellorsville in May, 1863, but the claim for pension on account of that wound was rejected in December, 1887, upon the ground that a pensionable disability from that cause had not existed since the filing of the claim; and a claim on account of rheumatism as of service origin was rejected in November, 1889, upon the ground of no record, and the best obtainable evidence failing to show origin of said disability in the service.

It is, however, shown by medical testimony that the soldier had been under treatment for rheumatism and resulting disease of heart since some time in 1865.

Medical and other testimony filed with your committee shows that for many months past the soldier has been confined to his bed with articular rheumatism; that his joints are deformed by reason of said disease; that he also has valvular disease of the heart produced from rheumatism; that, in fact, he is a confirmed invalid, requiring the constant aid of another person; that he has no income except the pension and no property except a home worth but \$1,000; that he has an invalid son, and that his wife is very little more than able to care for herself.

In view of the medical testimony filed by the soldier it would seem that his rheumatism is due to his military service.

However that may be, he is now a confirmed invalid, requiring the aid and attention of another person, and is destitute.

Under these circumstances an increase of his pension from \$12 to \$30 per month is warranted, hence the bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass.